2nd November 1933]

Mr. W. O. WRIGHT:—"I should like to ask the hon. Minister whether the distillation of illicit spirit in South Kanara and elsewhere is not directly encouraged by the high cost of licit spirit due to the present excessively high excise duty?" (Inaudible).

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Notice, Sir."

Toddy shop sales in 1933–34.

* 275 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the sales of toddy shops are over in all the districts;

(*b*) what the income in each district this year is as compared with the previous three years; and

(*c*) how many shops are in existence this year as compared with those in the previous three years?

A.—(*a*) The Commissioner of Excise has reported that the sales of toddy shops for the lease year 1933–34 are practically over in all districts.

(*b*) *&* (*c*) The Government have not the information but have called for it.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I ask whether there is any definite period within which all the sales should be over in the district?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I do not think there is any such limit of time."

Rules for the reconstitution of Excise Advisory Committees.

* 276 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether fresh rules have been framed in respect of the reconstitution of Excise Advisory Committees;

(*b*) if so, what they are; and

(*c*) if not, whether there are any proposals to frame such rules?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) *&* (*c*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 23 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 1st August 1933. The Commissioner's report on the subject has been received recently and is under the consideration of the Government.

Industries.

Proposal to abolish the Government Leather Trades Institute.

* 277 *Q.*—B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to abolish the Government Leather Trades Institute and, if so, what the reasons are on which such proposal is based; and